

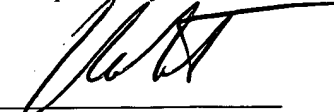
REMARKS

In response to the rejection entered by the Board Of Patent Appeals And Interferences on February 20, 2004, please enter the above amendment to claims 16 and 20. No change is made to claim 3, because claim 3 refers to the organic solvent vapor atmosphere and not the relatively low volatility solvent of claim 1. Claim 16 is made dependent on claim 1 and now recites that the alkoxysilane gel composition further comprises an alcohol or a polyol. Claim 20 is corrected from 1,4,1,4-butanediol, to 1,4,-butanediol. It is submitted that this modification effectively overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

With regard to the rejections under 35 USC. 103, Smith '425 defines low volatility solvent materials as having a boiling point range from 175°C to 250°C and being miscible in both water and ethanol. The examiner points to Hawley's to show that the diethylene glycol monomethyl ether used according to the present invention has a boiling point of 194°C and is soluble in water. The Board agreed with the examiner's conclusion that it would have been obvious to use diethylene glycol monomethyl ether in the place of Smith's glycol solvent, stating that they "have the same properties". Applicants insist that this is not the case. The mere fact that boiling points of compounds are in the same range does not mean that they are chemically similar. For example, this application requires the presence of di(ethylene)glycol monomethyl ether. Surely, one can find non-related compounds, e.g. ketones, amines, etc which have similar boiling points and yet one would not assume that such would be similarly useful compared to the instant ethers. More of a similarity is required than merely boiling point. For these reasons it is

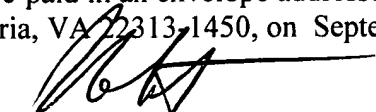
submitted that the rejection under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard S. Roberts
Reg. No. 27,941
P.O. Box 484
Princeton, New Jersey 08542
(609) 921-3500
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage pre-paid in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 24, 2004.



Richard S. Roberts
Reg. No. 27941